LA 10/24–27/68 & 10/30–31/68 – misc notes

10/26/68 en route San Diego. In LA 10/23

Steve did none of the things I asked of him in advance in writing & by phone, including no investigative appointments (Hall, Howard, Patnik, etc) – not even a place to sleep. A sweet girl ~~named~~ called, actually, "Charley Brown," took over the job, with great handicaps of his creation & did rather well under the circumstances. When, late the night of my arrival, she learned Steve had no place for me to stay, she offered me the couch in her living room & there I stayed until today. She was ill, passed out in her doctor's office Fri. p.m., but never stopped worrying about the missed opportunities. Very pretty, very pleasant – but also hung up on private life – broken marriage leaving her, at 24, struggling with a 4-year-old girl, Jamie – who is quite precocious.

Steve neither met me at the airport nor had anyone else do it – didn't even tell others of my arrival time, which I told him twice [illegible] by phone. Because Jim Lawrence knew, he came to airport. Art Kevin takes me to the plane today

He will probably meet me Wed & is making up some of the [illegible] [illegible] appointments for me on Wed., if it is now possible.

It is possible that St. Louis failures so unnerved by his past excellent record, was a boon because of what it made possible – a two-hour phone conversation with Dave Lifton last night and a later personal meeting with Steve Jaffe who came unannounced as did Steve B, while I was talking to Dave.

It revealed many of the details of their concept & explanations of the Thornley business, which seems to include Dick Billings very prominently. What they have done is to add to the little product of an apparently efficient espionage the wildest conjecture & the most irresponsible & wrong conclusions. They have me responsible for Garrison's interest in Thornley, his indictment, even his press release. I gave Dave more than enough for him to check Thornley's "honesty", of which he speaks much. He apparently is depending on KTO word & Billings' readily [illegible] investigation. I told him about the memo,#

in part, is the Open City picture of what really happened at Reueland Hall of KT's relationship with Barbara & his trust in her — and her kindness to him — which was new to him.

He offered to send me some of his diary & I thanked him. He claims to have interviewed S.S. agents & to have documentary proof of a White House conspiracy — involving LBJ & Allen Dulles & a series of secret meetings in Texas the week before the assassination. Al Schwartz who came later & stayed until 4 a.m., ~~[illegible]~~ told me an earlier version had it Rusk instead of Dulles. Al also said that recently Dave was still talking about those moveable ~~papier~~ papier-mache trees.

Jim Lamarca has a witness, a ~~Toiters~~ waitress, on tape, identifying KT as the man who used a "Lee Osborne" Diner's Card with her.

And has another woman who identifies Shaw as a man she saw entering Bradley's home — also on tape — to send me dub.

I told Jim + Art Osborne significance.

Jaffe supplied an account of Bobby's appearance to see him right before assassination of his being diverted by Brian Kearny. Art says Jim has been challenging seeing Rosy [illegible] but that he had earlier, in D.C., seen him + [illegible] in D.C., + that they had looked at his Moorman stuff + agreed with his interpretation of it. No date but ~~app~~ approx. 1 year ago.

Steve J said he had worked through a Bobby-lawyer Ron Buck + a former KHJ TV producer Dick Lubic. His account of Lubic – quitting KHJ to go to work for ~~KH~~ RFK – is not what Art says. Art says he is a liar who got fired and was only a volunteer hanger-on with RFK. Art does not trust him.

Steve says Lubic has RFK assassination pictures. He also identifies another photographer on the tape as a man who, as a stringer for ABC, got valuable movies just before ass. He + Fred have seen them + think they see something suspicious in an on-stage photographer not taking pictures – only seeming to.

The story does not impress me. The photo-grapher is said to be wearing a Zebra jacket & boots. They seem to think he is one ~~Yarro~~ Yarrow. Charley Brown is the source on this. They appear not yet to have seen Yarrow, to see if he is the guy. Charley also said other pict was ~~Stan~~ seem to ~~stow~~ show this photographer with a sweater, not as Ted seems to have seen him.

One copy of this film seems to have been stolen from a locker at UCLA. Jaffe says they saw a "working print."

Jaffee is to try & make an appointment for me to see Lubic on Wednesday when I return to LA. I asked Art to go along. They are said to have agreed to sell Lubic this film for $1,000 & when they did, the price went up first to $2,000 & then to $5,000. The story ~~see~~ seems to lack what it takes, but they do say they have some 8 X 10 stills they have not showed Charley. I did not see them.

He also told me of his confidence in Hepburn. He would have shown me a copy, which he said he had in the car, but he had to leave to get to a store then about to close. He will show it to me Wed. He says he is unimpressed by Broshears & will send me copies of his files. He quotes B as saying Ferrie stayed on "pills", the inference being pep pills or something like that, and stayed drunk, thus accounting for his loose tongue.

Of the Hepburn book, he says the plan is to force a suit, which will force the material not in the book out in the open. In short, the book is bait for a suit. He says the office got word, [illegible] thinks through [illegible] in Mexico City, that it would get an ms. that would, on close study, become clear. It then arrived in a plain envelope, no return address, no provenance. He also quotes Hepburn and/or his associates as having a low opinion of J.G., which seems to me to be inconsistent with placing this trust in him. He identifies the country as France, the agency as the II Bureau. He says those he met are "nice guys". He kept using such words as "excellent", "unfortunate" throughout, in a way I have often heard him talk but one that is not reassuring to me.

Steve gives the impression of being absolutely confident of Hepburn + Buchanan but I remain unimpressed because I lack confidence in his judgement.

Returning to the Buck-Lubic story he says that during this period he + Jean were together at Palm Springs when Lubic phoned + Jean took the phone to say what is incredible, for it is exactly what I had earlier suggested he use as the Bobby attitude. Here the weakness is in Lubic, on whom it all depends. Again according to Jaffe, Lubic phoned, saying he was in SF + in Bobby's room with Bobby there, + that when he got to LA Bobby would see them. Steve says that in L.A. Mankiewicz said they would have nothing to do with the subject until after the election.

What Chet says is that on coming to KHJ-TV Lubic gave exaggerated accounts of his extensive business + perhaps financial interest that turned out to be fictitious. However, all that does bear a relationship to unconscious reality. He gave me a Lubic mind reading "Cola Contention". It is a subsidiary of the Gyro-Dynamics Corporation, with address 9000 Sunset Blvd. Steve had made several references to a "9000 Building", & I think Buck's office was in it also. I now seem to recall that the call from Palm Springs was to Buck not Lubic.

Lubic or Buck is supposed to have phoned Salinger in D.C. & interested him & to have relayed what Jaffe had told him in a three-hour conference. ~~Salin~~ Salinger is said to have been a little impressed by what Buck or L. told him but to have said he considered Garrison a ~~nut~~ nut & on this basis to have refused to do anything.

The flight was a "stretch" DC 8, very long, & it bumped in after we took off — I hope. We were late taking off. When I awakened early in the a.m., turned the radio, I got San Diego KFMB. It reported airports closed & also some superhighways. I called United on whose Fl. 103 I was scheduled, & they reported only the first plane delayed, airports open & no delays. We made an approach at San Diego airport &

Then took off again, full power, then circled for a while, then returned to L.A. As we were almost ready to touch down there, where the smog also was heavy, we full-powered again & the pilot announced an airport in the San Diego area was clear & we would land there. The hostess later, on the return flight, told us the LA ~~[illegible]~~ airport was closed as we were about to land. We made it through the very obvious mountains to Miramar Naval Air Station, apparently a radar landing. I could see nothing part of this time, so I believe it must have been at least an instrument approach. It was an uneasy flight! The runway was very long, apparently to accommodate the very large planes that carry the Atlas missiles from this area. It took five buses to transport the passengers of this one plane. The flight is one of a half hour. My bus pulled away from the plane 3 hours after scheduled landing time, for the commercial ~~Station~~ airport